

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-43 are pending in the present application. Claim 5 is cancelled. Claims 1, 15, 20 and 35 are the independent claims. Claims 1-4 and 6-43 stand rejected.

Telephonic Interview

On September 25, 2008, Examiner and the undersigned conducted a telephonic interview. Any substantive subject matter discussed during said interview is incorporated into the remarks, below.

The applicants would like to thank the Examiner for granting the interview, and should the Examiner have any questions and/or concerns, the undersigned can be readily reached at 206-903-2467.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-8, 10-15, 19-27, 29-35 and 39-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Haneda (Pat. No. 6,483,602).

Applicants have amended the present independent claims to further clarify the techniques used and believe that a discussion of how they differ from the cited prior art will be useful.

The present application claims techniques for cataloguing and maintaining a catalog of files stored on a plurality of external storage media. In an embodiment, the external storage media are re-writable, and a file may be added or deleted to a storage medium. Where a file is added or deleted, a database that maintains the catalog is updated to reflect this.

Applicants read Haneda to disclose techniques identifying and locating “original digital image data” stored on a “laboratory recording medium” that correlates to “reduced digital image data” contained on a “user’s disk” by use of “an identification code.” Haneda, abstract. Haneda does not disclose techniques for performing the opposite lookup, that is, to use the original digital image data stored on the laboratory recording medium to locate the reduced digital image data contained on the user’s disk. The Examiner has correlated the

storage medium of the present application with the user's disk of Haneda. Official Action, page 2. Haneda does not disclose techniques for tracking updates of files on external storage media.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include "determining that at least one file contained on the storage medium has been added or deleted; and updating the database to reflect each added or deleted file." Applicants respectfully submit that Haneda does not disclose either that the storage medium may be updated, nor that the database is updated to reflect the new contents of the storage medium. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance because the cited reference does not teach every element of the claim.

Applicants have amended claim 20 in a similar manner as claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is in condition for allowance because the cited reference does not teach every element of the claim.

Applicants have amended claim 15 to disclose "determining at least one label corresponding to each record; and determining an external storage medium corresponding to each label." Applicants respectfully submit that Haneda does not disclose "determining an external storage medium corresponding to each label." Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is in condition for allowance because the cited reference does not teach every element of the claim.

Applicants have amended claim 29 in a similar manner as claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 is in condition for allowance because the cited reference does not teach every element of the claim.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-14, 40 and 43 depend from independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-14, 40 and 43 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 16-19 and 42 depend from independent claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-19 and 42 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 21-27 and 41 depend from independent claim 20. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-27 and 41 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

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Claims 30-34 depend from independent claim 29. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30-34 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 35-39 depend from independent claim 35. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 35-39 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 9 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haneda in view of Pond et al (Pat. No. 4,864,616).

Claim 9 depends from independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 28 depends from independent claim 20. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

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